SOUTH AFRICA

1. First ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister (President Mandela has visited India thrice).
2. Visits to Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. Meetings with President Mandela, Deputy President Mbeki and several national and provincial Ministers.
3. Addrsss to South African Parliament at Cape Town where PM outlined specific measures to invest "Strategic partnership" between the two countries with new content and direction.
4. Visits to sites associated with Gandhiji's stay in South Africa — Tolstoy Farm and Fort at Johannesburg and Phoenix Settlement near Durban. PM announced an initial contribution of US$ 100,000 towards restoration of these sites to which both countries are jointly committed. He also announced institution of scheme of 12 annual awards to South Africans for outstanding contributions to community development, communal harmony and research on Gandhiji's work in South Africa (a corpus of Rs. 10 crores in intended to be invested for this purpose)
5. Establishment of a Chair on Gandhian Studies at University of Durban Westville and of a Gandhi Wing at Institute of Peace and Reconciliation to be set up at robben Island.
6. Agreement on cooperation in geology and mineral resources and in tourism concluded. Programme of cooperation in science and technology also signed. India Tourist Office inaugurated during PM's visit.
7. Terms of Reference of Indo-South African Commercial Alliance agreed to (roughly on lines of Indo-US Business Alliance and Indo-British Partnership). A CII Office has been opened in Johannesburg and 'Made in India' Show is to be inaugurated in Februrary. 1998.
8. Offer to assist South Africa in organisation of NAM Summit at Durban in August/September 1998.

Hinduja Power project at Visakhapatnam

*31. DR. MOHAN BABU:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made with respect to 1000 MW Hinduja power project after the laying of foundation stone at Visakhapatnam;

(b) what are the bottlenecks and constraints in the progress of the project;

(c) the steps taken for the removal of the hurdels; and

(d) by when the project is expected to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The proposal of M/s Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited for implementing the 1040 MW Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project was accorded techno-economic clearlance by the Central Electricity Authority on 25.7.1996.

(b) and (c) The Coal Supply & Transportation Agreement has to be negotiated and settled between M/s Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. and M/s Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. The provisions of the agreement have also to be acceptable to Railways and Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Power Purchase Agreement between the promoters and Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board can only be finalised thereafter. This process has taken time. Government of India have been monitoring the progress to ensure that all avoidable delays are minimised.

(d) The project is scheduled for commissioning 44 months after the date of financial closure by the promoters.

Implementation of Fifth Pay Commission's recommendation in respect of clerks

*32. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Upper and Lower Division Clerks in the Central Secretariat Clerical Service